

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of Claims 1-4, 7-19, and 22-32.

By this amendment, Claims 5-6 and 20-21 have been cancelled and no claims have been added or amended. Hence, Claims 1-4, 7-19, and 22-32 are pending in the application.

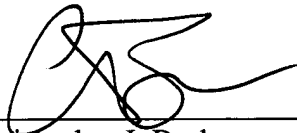
All pending claims are currently allowed. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP



Christopher J. Brokaw

Reg. No. 45,620

Date: March 31, 2006

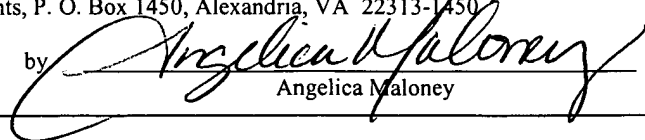
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **Mail Stop Amendment,** Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on March 31, 2006

by



Angelica Maloney